

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LILONG 01007 241211Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----074013 241214Z /53

R 240902Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
TO SECSTATE 1018
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LILONGWE 1007

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PINR, RH, MZ, MI
SUBJECT: CURIOUS REQUESTS FROM ZANU/SITHOLE FIGURE

REF: LILONGWE 0945

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: TOTALLY UNANNOUNCED, A MASIMBA LAZARUS CHAKADINI WHO CLAIMED TO BE REV. NDABANINGI SITHOLE'S CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER IN MALAWI AND MOZAMBIQUE CAME TO THE EMBASSY ON JUNE 23, 1977 AND ASKED TO SPEAK TO THE POLITICAL OFFICER. THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WAS TO OBTAIN FUNDS TO SUPPORT HIMSELF UNTIL HE MET HIS AMERICAN CONTACT, CODENAME "MR. RHODES", IN BLANTYRE ON JULY 6, 1977. CLAIMING TO HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM MOZAMBIQUE, CHAKADINI ALSO LEFT A LETTER FOR TRANSMISSION TO "MR. RHODES" WHO HE CLAIMED WORKED AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN LUSAKA. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JUNE 23, 1977 A MASIMBA LAZARUS CHAKADINI CAME TO THE EMBASSY AND ASKED TO SPEAK WITH THE POLITICAL OFFICER. CHAKADINI CARRIED BRITISH PPT. C885843. HE EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD COME DIRECTLY TO THE EMBASSY BECAUSE HE WAS DESPERATE, SEEKING AN ADDITIONAL "ALLOWANCE" (CASH) AND PENS WITH
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"SECRET INK". CHAKADINI SAID HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE ZANU/SITHOLE GROUP AND HAD RECENTLY BEEN APPOINTED BY REV. SITHOLE TO BE HIS CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER FOR MALAWI AND MOZAMBIQUE.

3. WHEN QUESTIONED WHY HE HAD COME TO THE EMBASSY, CHAKADINI CLAIMED THAT HE HAS BEEN PROVIDING INFORMATION

ON THE MILITARY SITUATION IN MOZAMBIQUE AND ZAMBIA TO SOMEONE IN THE AMEMBASSY LUSAKA. HE SAID HIS CONTACT WHOSE CODENAME WAS "MR. RHODES" (CHAKADINI'S CODENAME "LARRY"), WAS TO MEET HIM IN BLANTYRE ON JULY 6, 1977. AT THAT TIME CHAKADINI WAS TO GIVE "RHODES" INFORMATION AND SKETCHES OF THE ZIMBABWE FREEDOM FIGHTERS POSITIONS IN MOZAMBIQUE AND THEN RECEIVE HIS "ALLOWANCE". THE REASON FOR APPROACHING THE EMBASSY AT THIS POINT WAS THAT HE HAD EXPENDED HIS LAST ALLOWANCE FROM "RHODES" ON HIS RECENT TRIP IN ZAMBIA AND MOZAMBIQUE. THEREFORE CHAKADINI SOUGHT FUNDS TO SUPPORT HIMSELF UNTIL THE JULY 6 MEETING.

4. CHAKADINI ALSO ASKED THE EMBASSY OFFICER TO TRANSMIT A LETTER TO "MR. RHODES" AT THE AMEMBASSY LUSAKA. IN THE LETTER, CHAKADINI STATED THAT HE HAD "SEEN THREE BATTALIONS FROM TANZANIA BEING DEPLOYED AT THE RHODESIAN BORDER." HE WROTE FURTHER THAT REV. SITHOLE WOULD ARRIVE IN MALAWI ON JUNE 25, 1977, SPEND 5 OR 6 DAYS HERE AND THEN PROCEED TO ZIMBABWE. CHAKADINI ALSO ASKED "RHODES" TO PROVIDE "SOMEONE IN BLANTYRE TO GIVE SKETCHES AND INFORMATION TO". (WILL POUCH COPIES OF LETTER TO DEPT. AND LUSAKA).

5. CHAKADINI STRESSED THAT REV. SITHOLE DID NOT KNOW HE WAS PASSING INFORMATION AND RECEIVING "ALLOWANCES". SEVERAL TIMES CHAKADINI PROFESSED ANTI-COMMUNIST SENTIMENTS AND CLAIMED THAT THE REASON THE ZANU FORCES IN MOZAMBIQUE HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED THE RECENT RHODESIAN INCURSION WAS THAT THEY WERE UNWILLING TO DIE FOR THEIR COMMUNIST (READ MUGABE) LEADERS.

6. EMBASSY OFFICER LISTENED IN WONDER TO CHAKADINI'S STORY AND MADE NO COMMITMENTS. CAN EITHER EMBASSY LUSAKA OR DEPARTMENT SHED SOME LIGHT ON THIS BIZARRE VISIT?
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 24-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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